(d) the measures taken by his Ministry to prevent such environmental disasters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Only two minor incidents of fire on offshore rigs have been reported in the last one year.

(d) The rigs are provided with fire extinguishing systems of international standard.

Financial Performance

1767. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted on the financial performance of States and Centre during the Eighth Plan Period;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure satisfactory performance by the States during the Ninth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). No Sir. However, Planning Commission has conducted a Mid-Term Appraisal of the performance of the Eighth Five year Plan in which performance of the States as well as the the Centre has been reviewed by the Commission. The review showed that the Central Sector outlay would be achieved more or less but there would be some shortfall in the achievement of outlays in the case of States. Copy of the Draft Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan 1996-97 has already been placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Ninth Five Year Plan is still under formulation.

Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project

1768. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether global tenders were invited for Navi Nagar Thermal Power Project recently; and

(b) if so, the names of the companies which submitted their tenders for the above power project and the name of the company which has been awarded the tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., on behalf of Ministry of Power, floated an enquiry for 'pre-qualification' of project developers for setting up a coal-based thermal power project of 2,000 MW (4x500 MW) capacity at Nabi Nagar, through international competitive bidding.

(b) Tenders have not been submitted by the prospective developers so far.

[Translation]

Urban Projects of Maharashtra

1769 SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some urban development projects of Maharashtra are pending with the Union Government for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all projects have been cleared; and

(d) if not, the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT), the State level Sanctioning Committee is competent to approve IDSMT Projects.

(b) to (d). During 1995-96, the State of Maharashtra was allocated six towns for coverage in 1995-96 and 1996-97 under IDSMT. However, the State level Sanctioning Committee approved projects for 10 towns. Accordingly Central assistance could be releassed for the first six towns. The remaining four towns : Amaravati, Shahada, Navapur and Kurundwad; though cleared by the State Committee could not be provided Central funds during 1995-96. These towns are in excess of the allocation provided to the State for 1995-96. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate at this point of time when Central assistance would be released to these towns. Release of funds for additional towns during 1996-97 would depend on the availability of surplus funds after meeting the commitments of on-going projects, availability of State share and submission of utilisation certificates by the State Government for the funds released under IDMST earlier.

[English]

Dispute Between Rajasthan and NTPC

1770. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any dispute between Rajasthan and NTPC in regard to tariff for gas based power stations; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?